

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

16 OCTOBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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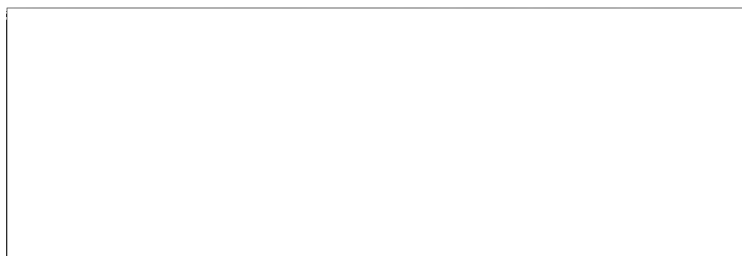
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LATE ITEM

USSR

a. While the evidence is not conclusive, we now think it more likely that Khrushchev was ousted rather than that he suffered a sudden physical collapse or died.

b. We can, however, pretty well rule out the ostensible explanation of "advanced age and deteriorating health."



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sador Kohler cables that Khrushchev returned to Moscow that afternoon, but no one reports having seen him.

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e. In any case, the total absence of any note of compassion in Moscow's announcement is a compelling argument that he is out of favor.

f. We can only speculate on the reasons for Khrushchev's fall. There are a number of well-known intractable problems which face the Soviet Government.

g. The China problem, however, seems a less likely candidate than domestic economic policy. We have seen no signs of disunity in the Soviet leadership over policy toward Peiping.

h. In retrospect, it appears conceivable that the seeds for the change were sown in late September during the Kremlin meeting on a new long-term economic plan. Khrushchev's strong argument in favor of accelerated production of consumer goods may have precipitated a reaction against him.

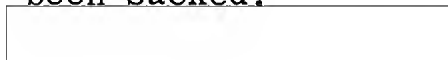
i. This meeting received no advance publicity, although nearly every significant Soviet economic and political organization was represented.

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j. On the surface at least, Brezhnev and Kosygin have appeared to support Khrushchev's policies, so there is little indication of any contemplated changes.

k. Pravda this morning coupled the official announcement of the shifts in the Kremlin with the assertion in bold type that the party would "firmly and consistently" carry out "the general line worked out at the 20th and 22nd Congresses of the party," thus affirming adherence to Khrushchev's general program.

l. Nonetheless, we expect some changes will not be long in coming. We note rumors that, in addition to son-in-law Adzhubei, the editor of Pravda and the chief of Soviet radio and television have been sacked.



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1. UK Elections

a. At 0900 EDT, Labor had taken 291 seats to 271 for the Conservatives, but was quite uncertain of a working majority in Parliament.

b. About 70 constituencies, mostly in rural areas where the Conservatives are strong, were still uncounted.

c. Harold Wilson says if he gets a majority, however small, it will be his duty to form a government.

d. Patrick Gordon Walker lost his seat, but could be named acting foreign minister until returned by an early by-election.

e. The Liberals lost seats despite a gain in total vote, but might still hold the balance of power in Parliament.

2. South Vietnam

a. The High National Council now appears stymied by the Khanh-Minh rivalry.

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b. The council leans heavily toward Minh as Chief of State with strong powers in the new provisional government. Khanh would be offered a decidedly secondary position as premier.

c. Khanh, however, seems to have no intention of giving up control and still has the backing of the young generals.



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e. In this highly complex situation, yet another resort to military force could occur with very little warning.

NOTES

- A. Congo The rebels are reported to have mounted another assault on the key eastern town of Uvira. ANC troops, apparently having had their fill of pillaging, are now deserting.

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- C. East Africa East and Central African leaders meeting in Dar-es-Salaam today may make some far-reaching decisions. The chiefs of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Northern Rhodesia will discuss military coordination, Mozambique, the Congo, and diplomatic action against Southern Rhodesia. They probably will also consider means for using Northern Rhodesia as a base for subversive operations against southern Africa.

- D. Argentina The government is bracing itself for possible trouble during Peronist demonstrations slated for 17 October, the anniversary of Peron's 1945 return to power. The military is expected to act quickly to suppress any violence.

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E. Yemen - Egypt - Saudi Arabia The Yemeni republicans and royalists will soon meet to negotiate a settlement of their two-year-old civil war. The first session, which will be attended by Egyptian and Saudi Arabian observers, will probably be devoted largely to sounding out each other's position, although a temporary cease-fire may be arranged.

F. Cuba-US Cuba intends to use the next UN General Assembly meeting to increase pressure on the US for a rapprochement. Havana will try to get UN adoption of the recent Cairo resolutions denouncing US economic pressures on Cuba and calling for evacuation of Guantanamo.

[redacted] hopes to stir up enough favorable opinion to influence the US toward changing its Cuban policy.

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G. USSR-Mexico A large group of Soviet oil experts will arrive in Mexico on 20 October at the invitation of PEMEX, the state-owned petroleum industry. The Russians may follow up on a Soviet offer made last summer to provide equipment and technical help to develop Mexico's oil resources. PEMEX's main concern at present is the development of Mexico's petrochemical industry, however, and we doubt that the Soviets can make an attractive offer in that area.